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JB Choud

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Clean Bill Introduced and Clears Full Committee
to Grant Federal Employees Rights to Participate
in Political Activities

1. On 1 October, Representative William Clay (D., MO) introduced a "clean bill" on granting Federal employees additional rights to engage in political activities. This Bill works out all the political problems encountered with HR 20 and HR 21.

2. I visited and spoke with a senior staff member on the House Post Office and Civil Service Committee who advised that this Bill will move quickly now that consensus had been reached among Committee members. He expects the Bill to be introduced on the floor within a week. There are 126 cosponsors.

3. I subsequently attended the business meeting of the Post Office and Civil Service Committee where the Bill was reported out unanimously.

4. The only problem the Agency has with the Bill is the provision which permits employees to take annual leave or leave without pay to run for political office. It is incumbent upon an agency to show cause why leave should not be granted, i.e., serious loss to productivity. This problem is hardly the basis for seeking any relief. OPM has opposed the Bill with the issue of granting annual leave being a key argument against the Bill.

5. There is interest on the Senate side in passage of this Bill, according to a source I spoke with last month. His impression at the time was that the Bill would not move in the Senate until Spring when there would be more political impact. But, with passage in the House, we may see Senate action soon.

6. When a copy of the Bill is available, I will send out to ensure I have not missed something significant. In the meantime, if there are residual concerns, please advise me or soonest.



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